CLAIMS

1. A method for the remote and dynamic configuration of a server to facilitate capacity on demand comprising the steps of:

(a) a client device requesting a resource from a first server in a communications network;

(b) the first server receiving the request for the resource from the client device;

(c) the first server routing the client request for the resource to a dynamic content module, the dynamic content module identifying an available third server from which the requested resource can be served and routing the requested resource to the client device;

(d) collating performance data from the first and third server and the first server reporting the performance data to a second server;

(e) a second server analysing the performance data collated in step (d) to determine performance capabilities of the first and the third server and identifying if the first or the third server has reached a predetermined threshold; and

(f) the second server adjusting the allocation of the first server or the third server in response to step (e) and issuing a configuration update instruction for the first server or the third server to a dynamic configuration module of the first server and determining if a resource update is successful.

2. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dynamic content module further comprises requesting a connection configuration file for the third server from the dynamic configuration module.

3. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the dynamic configuration module stores configuration settings for one or both the first server and the third server.

4. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the allocation of one or both the first server and the third server further comprises allocating an additional server from a free server resource pool.

5. A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the step of adjusting the allocation of one or both the first server and the third server further comprises de-allocating the first server or the third server from an allocated resource pool to a free server resource pool.

6. A method as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the first server and the second server communicate with each other through XML data streams.

7. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the second server is a management server providing a central control point for one or more first servers.

8. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the requested resource is decoupled from the first server allowing the introduction of a new service or the removal of a redundant service.

9. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the first server is plurality of servers.

10. A method as claimed in claim 1 wherein the third server is plurality of servers.

11. A system for the remote and dynamic configuration of a server to facilitate capacity on demand, the system being for use with a client device which requests and receives a resource in a communications network, the system comprising:

a first server, the first server comprising a dynamic content module, a dynamic configuration module and a reporting module;

the first server further comprising:

means for routing the client request for the resource to the dynamic content module;

means for the dynamic content module identifying a third server from which the requested resource can be served and means for retrieving a connection configuration file associated with the third server stored in the dynamic configuration module; and

means for the reporting module collating performance data from the first server and the third server and means for routing the performance data to a second server;

a second server comprising an analyser module, a resource allocation module and a resource update module, the second server sending the performance data to the analyser module; the second server further comprising:

means for the analyser module determining the performance capabilities of the first server and the third server and means for identifying if the first server and the third server has reached a predetermined threshold;

means for the resource allocation module adjusting the allocation of one or both the first server and the third server in response to the identifying means; and

means for the resource update module issuing a configuration update instruction for one or both the first server and the third server to the dynamic configuration module of the first server and means for determining if the allocation or de-allocation of one or both the first server and the third server has been successful; and

a third server comprising one or more resources and means for the third server to serve a requested resource to the first server.

12. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for adjusting the allocation of one or both the first server and the third server further comprises means for allocating an additional server from a free server resource pool.

13. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for adjusting the allocation of the first server or the third server further comprises means for de-allocating one or both the first server and the third server from an allocated resource pool to a free server resource pool.

14. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for communication between the first server and the second server is through XML data streams.

15. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for the connection configuration file comprises connection settings for the first and the third server.

16. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the dynamic configuration module provides means for storing configuration settings for a first server and a third server.

17. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein the second server is a management server providing means for a central control point for the first and the third server.

18. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for the requested resource is decoupled from the first server allowing means for the introduction of a new service or the removal of a redundant service.

19. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for the first server is plurality of servers.

20. A system as claimed in claim 11 wherein means for the third server is plurality of servers.

21. A computer program product comprising computer program code stored on a computer readable storage medium, which when executed on a data processing system, instructs the data processing system to carry out the method as claimed in claim 1.